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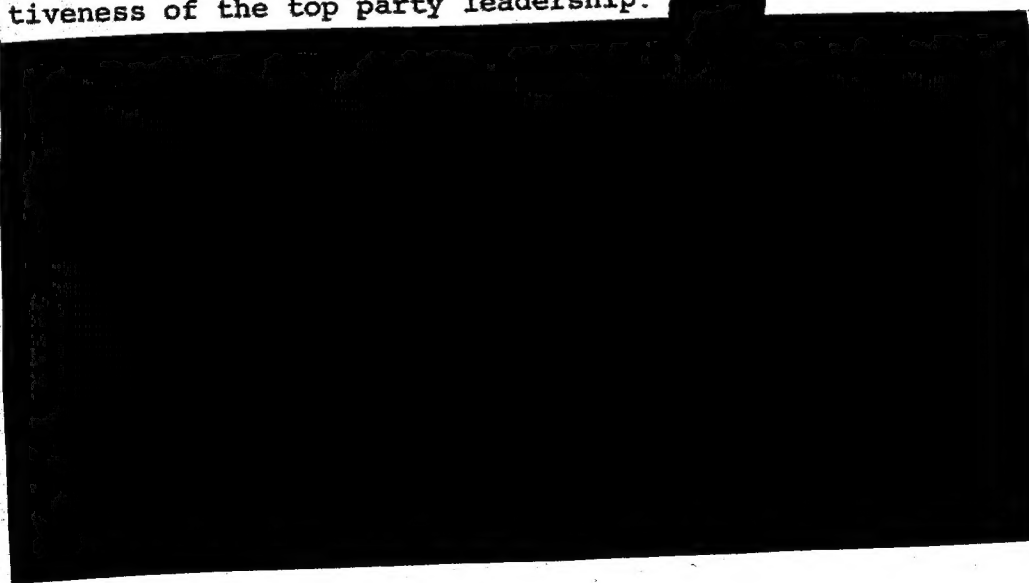
April 15, 1981

POLAND: Frictions Near the Surface

*The potential for union-government conflict continues to be near the surface, with the government apparently planning to try several dissidents on 27 April, and the union asserting that its legal experts believe the parliamentary resolution endorsing Prime Minister Jaruzelski's proposed strike ban lacks the force of law.*

The dissidents--jailed since last fall--are considered extremists by many Poles, and their incarceration has drawn few protests from Solidarity. Nonetheless, the trial may complicate union-government talks, which already promise to be long and difficult. Solidarity has placed the issue of political prisoners on the agenda, and it may now feel compelled to press the matter harder than it planned. Some within Solidarity are probably prepared to organize protest demonstrations.

Party leader Kania continues his efforts to rally party unity and to recover any political ground he may have lost at the Central Committee session last month. He held a lengthy "frank" discussion yesterday with approximately 50 Central Committee members representing the rank and file who bitterly criticized the ineffectiveness of the top party leadership.



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